

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 021824Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2456
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL TURIN POUCH
AMCONSUL TRIESTE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT
SUBJECT: MAY DAY IN ITALY: CISL LEADER REFERS FAVORABLY TO VISIT

REF: ROME 7868

1. SUMMARY: ITALIAN LABOR LEADERS ADDRESSING MAY DAY
DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT ITALY CONDEMNED VIOLENCE AND
ADVOCATED THAT THE WORKERS RALLY ROUND THE DEMOCRATIC
STATE. CISL LEADER MACARIO REFERRED FAVORABLY TO HIS
RECENT TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES, CITING THE ADMINISTRA-
TION'S SUCCESSES IN MEETING THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.
HE ALSO IDENTIFIED CISL MORE BROADLY WITH THE DC THAN
ANY CISL SECRETARY GENERAL HAS DONE FOR A LONG TIME.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION OF LABOR DAY IN ITALY
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WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY EXPRESSIONS OF FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE
DEMOCRATIC STATE AND CONDEMNATION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE.
THESE SENTIMENTS EMERGED FROM THE REMARKS OF THE
PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS: CISL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
GARNITI IN ROME; CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA IN TURIN;
AND UIL SECRETARY GENERAL BENVENUTO IN MILAN. RALLIES
WERE HELD IN ALL THE PRINCIPAL CITIES. THE DEMONSTRATIONS

TRANSPIRED WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT, EXCEPT IN MILAN WHERE SOME CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPANTS WERE ATTACKED BY FAR LEFT EXTREMEISTS AND SOME OF THEIR CARS BURNED. IN GENERAL, THE TURNOUTS WERE SIZEABLE.

3. IN A LENGTHY ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE MAY 1 EDITION OF THE DC DAILY, IL POPOLO, CISL SECRETARY GENERAL LUIGI MACARIO HIGHLIGHTED THE SAME THEMES, PROCLAIMING THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE SLOGAN FOR ITALIAN WORKERS IN THIS YEAR'S LABOR DAY IS "AGAINST THE RED BRIGADES AND FOR THE REPUBLIC AND THE CONSTITUTION". MACARIO WENT ON TO REFER TO HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE US, WHERE HE LEARNED SOMETHING WHICH HE CONSIDERS EXEMPLARY AND WORTHY OF MEDITATIONS", AND CONTINUED: "WE LEARNED THAT ALSO THAT NATION WAS CONFRONTED WITH A WORRYSOME UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM, STILL,

IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF CARTER, WHILE THE NUMBER OF JOBS HAS DECREASED BY THREE MILLION, THEY HAVE CREATED FOUR MILLION NEW JOBS WITH AN EXPANSIONARY POLICY. THEY HAVE ALSO CREATED AN ADDITIONAL 750,000 JOBS FOR YOUTH, TOTALLY FINANCED BY THE STATE, IN SOCIALLY USEFUL ACTIVITIES, WITH AN EXPENDITURE OF MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND BILLION LIRE (ABOUT \$12 BILLION) ANNUALLY FROM 1977 TO 1979".

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CUSTOMARY FOR ITALIAN LABOR LEADERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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--LEAST OF ALL FOR NON-COMMUNIST LABOR LEADERS, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN "MINORITY LEADERS-- TO PRAISE THE UNITED STATES. THAT MACARIO DID SO VIRTUALLY GRATUITOUSLY (NEITHER THE PRECEDING NOR SUCCEEDING PARAGRAPH OF HIS ARTICLE DEALS WITH THE SAME SUBJECT) IS MOST UNUSUAL, AND PROBABLY INDICATIVE OF A GENUINE DESIRE BOTH TO RESTORE AMICABLE RELATIONS WITH AFL-CIO, AND TO PUBLICIZE THE FACT.

5. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT IS EQUALLY NOTEWORTHY FOR THE TOP CISL LEADER TO WRITE SUCH AN ARTICLE FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PAPER. EVEN THOUGH CIS IS GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS DC-ORIENTED, IT HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN MOST CRITICAL OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, AND IN ANY EVENT, HAS PRIDED ITSELF ON BEING THE ONLY LABOR CONFEDERATION GENUINELY AUTONOMOUS FROM ITS POLITICAL PARENT. INDEED, IN HIS OPENING PARAGRAPH MACARIO EXPRESSES HIS GREAT PLEASURE IN RESPONDING TO IL POPOLO'S INVITATION, AND EXPRESSES, "WITH GREAT WARMTH" THE SOLIDARITY OF THE ITALIAN WORKERS WITH THE DC AND ALL ITS MEMBERS "WHO ARE BEING CALLED UPON TO PAY THE HIGHEST PRICE, IN BLOOD, COURAGE AND DETERMINATION, IN COMBATTING THE GREATEST THREAT AGAINST THE REPUBLIC AND THE DEMOCRATIC

SYSTEM".GARDNER

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